

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 ABF-01 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 XMB-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00
/036 W

-----132219Z 034333 /72-61

P 132101Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9428

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0241

E.O. 1162: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, DR

SUBJECT: GODR PL 480 PAYMENTS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 215

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: REFTEL REPORTED THAT GODR HAS FINALLY
BECOME CURRENT IN ITS PL 480 PAYMENTS.

2. WITH THIS LAST PAYMENT, THE GODR HAS PAID DURING 1976 NEARLY
US DOLLARS EIGHT MILLION IN PL 480 DEBTS, CLEARING UP THE 1975
AND 1976 INDEBTEDNESS BY THE END OF 1976 AS PRESIDENT BALAGUER
HAD PROMISED (UTILIZING THE DOMINICAN FLEXIBLE CALENDAR, OF
COURSE.) END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: EMBASSY AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE
THAT A MORE SYSTEMATIC, IF NOT AUTOMATIC, BASIS BE ESTABLISHED
FOR COLLECTING GODR INDEBTEDNESS IN THE FUTURE, NOW THAT GODR
IS CURRENT, RATHER THAN HAVING THE AMBASSADOR SERVE AS A
COLLECTION AGENT. WE APPRECIATE DEPT CONCERN BUT SERIOUSLY
DOUBT THAT MUCH CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT AS LONG AS BALAGUER IS
PRESIDENT. PERHAPS A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF HOW THE SYSTEM HERE
WORKS WILL BE USEFUL TO THE DEPT. FIRST, BALAGUER RUNS A
HIGHLY CENTRALIZED AND PERSONALIZED GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL, AND
WHERE FINANCES ARE CONCERNED, THE SITUATION IS DOUBLY SO. SECOND,
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AS THE LAST OF THE GREAT "CACIQUES," HE DOES NOT RPT NOT DELEGATE.
THIRD, REFLECTING BOTH BALAGUER THE "POLITICIAN" AND BALAGUER THE
"PENNY PINCHER," THE PRESIDENT USES A TWO-TIER SYSTEM OF APPROVING
FINANCIAL REQUESTS NOT UNLIKE OUR CONGRESSIONAL DUAL SYSTEM OF
"AUTHORIZATION" AND "APPROPRIATION": ON THE FIRST GO-ROUND BALA-
GUER AUTHORIZES JUST ABOUT ANY REQUEST FOR PAYMENT (TO THE UNINITI-
ATED, THIS SOUNDS LIKE APPROVAL OF THE REQUESTS AND RESULTANT

ADULATION OF BALAGUER); ON THE SECOND GO-ROUND, HOWEVER, AT PRECISELY 1:30 P.M. EACH AFTERNOON, BUDGET SUB-DIRECTOR DEL VILLAR MEETS WITH THE PRESIDENT WHO INDICATES SPECIFICALLY WHAT WILL AND WILL NOT BE PAID THAT DAY. A DEL VILLAR PREDECESSOR ENDED IN DISGRACE WHEN HE MISTOOK A BALAGUER NEGATIVE SHAKE FOR AN AFFIRMATIVE NOD.

4. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAS WELCOMED THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT HE SEND A LETTER WITH AMPLE NOTICE REMINDING THE PRESIDENT OF US DEBTS DUE. (THE PRESIDENT IN REALITY KNOWS WHAT DEBT IS DUE WHEN, BUT THIS FACE-SAVING DEVICE LENDS CREDENCE TO THE MYTH THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT BEING KEPT WELL INFORMED BY HIS STAFF.) SINCE THE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO DELIVER SUCH A LETTER PERSONALLY, THIS "SYSTEM" OFFERS THE AMBASSADOR A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE UP THE HALF A DOZEN OR SO OTHER ITEMS HE USUALLY HAS ON HIS AGENDA THAT REQUIRE PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS. IT ALSO ENABLES THE AMBASSADOR TO OBSERVE PERIODICALLY THE PRESIDENT'S APPARENT STATE OF HEALTH AND SPIRITS. THEREFORE, AN ANTIQUATED AND UNTIDY AS THE PRESENT PROCEDURE MAY APPEAR, ON BALANCE IT HAS WORKED REASONABLY WELL AND OFFERS THE ABOVE-MENTIONED OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AMBASSADOR TO PROMOT OTHER INTERESTS AS WELL. END CONFIDENTIAL.
HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PL 480, GOVERNMENT DEBTS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770013-1074
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770155/aaaabvsg.tel
Line Count: 84
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: GODR PL 480 PAYMENTS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, DR
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